

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

*Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5 of the present application beginning with "Therefore, plural filters having different..." and ending with "...letter portion as explained above." with the following amended paragraph.*

Therefore, plural filters having different direction and quantities of phase shift are prepared for passing simultaneously the image data obtained by reading an original image. Then, the difference between the maximum and minimum values of the image data obtained by reading an original image. Then, the difference between the maximum and minimum values of the image data obtained from the filters, i.e., the chroma value is calculated. The minimum chroma value is adopted as the corrected chroma value, which is used for determining the black letter portion as explained above.